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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 339. DECEMBER, 1934.

KINGDOM. POWER. GLORY.

"Glory to God in the Highest."—LUKE II. 14.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the readers of the "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian." "If your Church is non-subscribing," we were once asked, "then how are you supported?" We had to explain that the "non-subscription" did not apply to finance; but, to doctrine; that no person's religious opinions were questioned on his joining the Church, nor was interference with them permitted; but, each was expected to show towards others, the same tolerance which he demanded for himself.

* * *

We also recognise, and the meetings which were held at Copenhagen illustrated the fact that Liberal Christianity has other lines to travel than those of Presbyterianism and English Dissent, that it can also come along Episcopal and Catholic lines, and is doing so, to a very marked degree. There are points of contact to-day among the Great Religions of the world, as well as among the sects of those several religions, and also an enormous turning away from organised religion altogether, that it would be difficult to say what will be the form which religion will take in fifty years' time.

* * *

"We hold the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man." Yes, but where is the Brotherhood of Man?. The dark powers of hate at the present moment seems to be more in evidence than the Forces of Love. Class-hatred is being taught and fostered with revolutionary and anarchical fanaticism. Belfast, next to Edinburgh, has the reputation of being the most church-going city in Great Britain and Ireland. But, in large towns, there are long streets in which scarcely a single church-going family is to be found.

* * *

One hears stories of the life of some young man, occasionally, being made almost unbearable in the place where he works, because it is known that he goes to church on Sunday. Such a condition is traceable, not infrequently, to the presence of some atheistical middle-aged man, who may set up cynicism and scoffing at religious matters. Even in societies, where something better might be expected, some halfthinker with his crudities may bang the desk and ask, "Why didn't the Churches stop the war?" "Why didn't God kill the Devil?" asked Friday of Robinson Crusoe. True, conditions were bad enough, and will be so again, if the war cloud should burst in a deluge; but, what would the world have been without the Churches? What would life be, in these dark, strenuous times, without God and the hope of immortality, for what is a human life but a single day in the countless years of eternity? And as Christmas comes in the darkest days, bringing inner gladness and light to counteract the outer gloom, so will come the answer to the daily prayer, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

* * *

We have to thank very sincerely the

contributors to the Subsidy Fund for their steady support, both individual supporters and aid-giving congregations. The value of the Magazine to the Church has been warmly acknowledged, and a series of extracts from letters received was once prepared for the printer, but did not appear because of lack of space. We are assured that the "wee paper" does a good work. However, if every copy were sold, which is not the case, that would only just pay the printer's bill. All that comes to the Manager, above that, is due to payments for advertisements, for which we are grateful, and the Subsidy Fund. It is a relief to be free from the hampering incubus of debt. We are not forgetful of the services of those who undertake to see to the sale of the Magazine. We know that this Magazine finds its way into remote parts of the world, and that at home it is read by those in other Churches. The Magazine exists to serve the Church, and that is our constant endeavour.

REV. LAWRENCE REDFERN

On Sunday, 18th November, 1934, a large congregation assembled in the Ulster Hall for the annual United Service. The Moderator, Rev. J. Dare Davies, Moneyrea, presided. The Lesson was read by the Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson, M.A. The address on "The Call of the Spirit to the Churches" was delivered by the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, M.A., B.D., of Liverpool, who took for his text, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." Referring to the ferment in religious thought of to-day, and the rapid advance in the last two generations, more rapid than in any other period of history, very eloquently the preacher dwelt upon the acceptance, which had become so widespread, of the evolutionary idea, the theory of evolution being the greatest discovery which has been made since Galileo, so varied and far-reaching are the implications that it is applied in every department of human thought. The preacher very skilfully sketched the evolution of religion, and showed how that was exemplified in the Bible, and outside the Bible in the rites and ceremonies of religion. Not one of these had remained intact during its history, however much the essential core of it still remained. The enormous quickening of mind, the rising standard of education had compelled leaders in the Established Church (about which, in Ireland, we never hear) to realise that they were having now to deal with an increasingly educated population, and the Bishop of Birmingham had appealed to the Archbishop of Canterbury for guidance as to how the clergy are to suit the Church to the spiritual needs of a cultured people Eminent laymen in the last century had in their writings dwelt upon this very need. What was wanted in England to-day was a strong body of determined laymen who would make a stand to aid the Liberal Clergy in the "Established Church" in having greater liberty in the use they made of the creeds and dogma of the Church. The Modernist movement was a cry for this wider liberty. The Convocation of Bishops in the North, with its pronouncements, had made the task of those who were impelled to wider liberty more difficult than ever. The Free Christian Churches were in a more fortunate position, but it was at the price of a dearly hard-won battle, when social ostracism and civil disabilities had had to be endured. The preacher quoted the famous passage of Channing on the impossibility of being excommunicated from the inner and real Church of Christ. He might be expelled from Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Calvinistic or Arminian, but never from the fellowship and communion of the saintly minds of the Christian Church. In the middle of the service a quar tette, "God is a Spirit," was rendered very beautifully by Miss May Coburn, Miss L. Victoria Gordon, L.R.A.M.; Mr. D. Houston, Mr. J. A. Laird. The collection amounted to nearly £30. The Laymen's League express their gratitude to the many country friends who attended and helped to make the meeting a thorough success.

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

REVIEW.

"In the Steps of the Master," H. V. Morton, author of "In Search of Ireland," etc.—Rich and Cowan, Ltd., Oct., 1934—7/6.

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem

P. 123. "In the floor there is a star, and round it a Latin inscription which says: 'Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary.' The removal of this star years ago led to a quarrel between France and Russia, which blazed into the Crimean War."

This is an item of interesting information with which the book is packed, and which has made it one of the most fascinating books we have ever read. It is extremely difficult to put the book aside once one begins reading it, and far more so than is possible with a learned commentary written in the study of a scholar, as this book by a skilled and experienced traveller, who, with the aid of photographs and pen-pictures, brings out a new and fresh meaning out of many a passage, which we may have allowed to remain obscure. Describing the nature of buildings in Bethlehem, and the necessity for finding accommodation outside the inn, yet close at hand, the word translated "inn" by Luke would have been more exactly rendered as "guest chamber." The thought came to me that the nearest approach to the kind of building in which Christ was born is probably a Connemara cabin. The living room was separated from the animals' quarters by a pole and a curtain of sacking. A very vivid idea is conveyed of the entrance into Palestine by the early train from Egypt on the road parallel with the railway. "Joseph passed this way when he was carried into Egypt. It was the way the Holy Family fled from the wrath of Herod." "I saw some Arabs muffled and shrouded to the cold air. First came a donkey with a woman and child upon its back, and behind them strode a man. And I remember again that this was the way Joseph and Mary fled with a Child into Egypt." So frequently are there little pen-pictures of unconscious re-enactments of the Gospel story. A friend who knows the Holy Land agrees with the description of Jerusalem and the surrounding country; fierce, forbidding, the nature home of a hard, fanatical people. Jerusalem Station, the Hotel, the Presbyterian Church and Hostel, with its memorial to King Robert de Bruce. "The Communion Table" stands on green-veined marble from Iona, so that the minister in giving Communion stands all the time in Scotland. The Temple-court, and all the places named in Jerusalem, all the footsteps of the Master, are all there. Samaria is described, and Jacob's well, and Mount Gerizism, where sacrifices are still continued. Then north to Mount Carmel, to the range which bounds Gallilee on the South, and acts as a demarcation between †O.T. country and N.T. country, for here the greater part of Christ's life was lived. About sixty fishermen ply their craft on Gallilee; still the same old methods; watch them at work, and recall the Gospel narrative, and how correct is the setting. A young officer of the Air Force who was here told of a regiment of Assyrians at Bagdad who still talk Aramaic. After reading Prof. Torray on "The Four Gospels" which profess to be a re-translation from the Aramaic, we thought that this, the language of Jesus and the earliest Christian teachers had become simply the possession of a few specialists; but, here it is still today a language in common use, and many Aramaic words and idioms are still retained in the New Testament. The officer wrote down the words from the Cross in Aramaic, not so very different from the form we know: (Alhahi, Alhahi lama swkhtni). Mar means Lord, an means our, and atha means "comes" — Maranatha means "Our Lord comes."

†O.T.—Old Testament. N.T., New Testament. ULLIN.

ERRATUM.

In Nov., P. 124; "Psychology and Morals." "These are those" should be "There are those who. . . . have blamed Christianity for maudlin sentimentality."

OBITUARIES.

Mrs. James Moore.

The First Church, Belfast, has suffered a deep-felt loss in the passing away of Mrs. Moore, the wife of Dr. James Moore, at Merlyn, Malone Road, Belfast, on November 3rd. She was musically gifted, and before her marriage had been a member of the Carl Rosa Opera Company. It was only natural that after her settlement in Belfast she should make many deeply attached friends, who were drawn to her not only by her strong, radiant personality, but by her faculty for friendship, sympathy and helpfulness. It is true to say that her soul was compact of music, and she had love which "thinketh no evil," but looks for and finds the best in others. She was of a deeply religious nature, which found its visible expression in works of charity, in the service of high causes, that of peace being especially close to her heart towards the end, and in a faith that made her bright and unyielding, and kept her thinking and planning for human good through a long and very trying illness. Those who visited her in the sick room had a demonstration of the power of the spirit to triumph over the weakness of the flesh, and to maintain a splendid courage and an unbroken inward peace. She has gone to join "the choir invisible of those who live in lives made better by their presence," and her memory will be cherished by all who had the privilege of her friendship and co-operation in works of helpfulness for the sake of others.

She was interred at Templepatrick on November 6th, the Rev. R. Nicol Cross and the Rev. Alfred Turner officiating.

Mr. R. D. Pinkerton, J.P., Ballymoney.

The death took place on 9th November, after a brief illness, of Mr. Robert Dick Pinkerton, J.P., Ballaghmore, Ballymoney.

Mr. Pinkerton was an extensive farmer. Originally assistant commissioner and then inspector in the Irish Land Commission, he afterwards acted as inspector in the Land Purchase Commission, and also as assessor to the Judicial Commissioner in Northern Ireland. In the performance of his duties he travelled all over Ireland, and was widely known and highly esteemed.

He was a foundation member of the North Antrim Agricultural Association. For almost twenty years he acted as chairman of committee, and took an active part in the purchase of the present grounds for the Association. He was also chairman for a number of years of the Ballyrashane Creamery Company.

On the 22nd August, 1893, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and for a long number of years presided on the Bench at Ballymoney and Dervock. Possessed of a ready wit, a rich sense of humour, and power of repartee, he had a wide knowledge of the law and a still wider knowledge of humanity. He administered justice with a ripe judgement that tended towards promoting the peace of the district.

He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter. His eldest son, George, is managing director of Messrs. Dickey & Pinkerton, Ltd., motor engineers, Ballymena. His other son, Mr. John D. Pinkerton, is a dentist holding an important position under the Sultan of Johore. His daughter is Mrs. Hastings, wife of Mr. Lawrence Hastings, solicitor, Magherafelt.

The funeral took place from his residence, Ballaghmore, to the New Cemetery, on Sunday, and was a remarkable testimony to the high esteem in which he was held by all classes of the community. The cortege extended for a mile and a half, many people coming from long distances to pay their last tribute to a worthy man who has left a record of work well done. On all sides could be heard expressions of sincere regret at his passing.

Rev. F. Holt conducted divine service at the house and graveside.

William Hay, Lodge Hill, Clough.

The sad news of the death at sea of Mr. William Hay, eldest son of Mrs. Hay, Lodge Hill, was received on the 14th of November with great regret and sorrow by many relatives and friends in both the Clough and Downpatrick congregations, in both of which he was a well-known and highly-respected mem-

ber. He had been at home for some time inspecting the new ship on which he sailed as electrical engineer so recently as the 6th of November for New Zealand. His unexpected death at the early age of 28 years, has suddenly interrupted a life of great promise. A young man of ability and enterprise, he had bright prospects of establishing a business in New Zealand, in which he hoped to have the assistance of two younger brothers. They would have been a valuable acquisition to our Church in Auckland — a Church which in the past has been greatly aided by settlers from the North of Ireland. Of a bright and cheerful disposition, he made many friends in different parts of the Empire, and he was a thoughtful and generous son and brother at home. At the service in Clough Church on the Sabbath Day, after an appropriate sermon, the Rev. J. Shaw Brown referred to the sad event, and publicly expressed the sympathy of the congregation with the aged grandmother (Mrs. Mackenzie), who had him under her care for many years, and with the sorrowing mother, and brothers and sisters in their great loss and sad bereavement.

DOMESTIC MISSION.

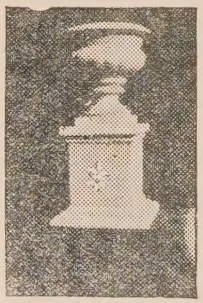
Our Sunday Services have been well attended, particularly in the evening, during the month. On Armistice Sunday the subject of Peace was made the central theme at both services, special reference being made to the fallen heroes who made the supreme sacrifice in the war to end war. The Debating Circle has enlisted several new members since opening the present session. Very keen discussion and deep interest has been evoked by the subjects introduced, which have included the following:—"The Oxford Group Movement," "Spiritualism," and "The Modern Working Class." At next meeting a lecture on Canada will be given by Rev. W. Eakin. The Boys' Club, under the leadership of Mr. J. Gilliland, has an increased attendance. A competition for two medals will take place toward the end of the session. The Girls' Clubs, under the care of Miss Montgomery and her assistants, cover a variety of activities and provide ample opportunity for developing the life of the girls. Our Table Tennis and Games' Section provide exercise and amusement for all who are specially interested in these departments. A concert will be held on November 30th under the auspices of the Social Club, when Mrs. J. G. Davies, of Comber, with her "Unity Players," will present two short plays, together with vocal numbers. Miss L. Lutton's dancing pupils will also take part. Arrangements are in hand for the various Christmas entertainments. The Sunday School Xmas Party will be held on Friday, 21st December. The Women's League Social on 17th December. We gratefully acknowledge the following donations during the month:—Mrs. J. G. Davies, Comber, parcel of books; Miss Service, Belfast, parcels of clothing.

W.E.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.—I. Cor. I. 24.

Published on the **Fourth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **20th** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.



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It would be a great convenience if remittances now due were sent to the Rev. Alfred Davison, Dromore.

REPORTS.

Antrim.

Very successful Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, October 21st, at 11.30 and 3.30. In the morning the minister preached to a large congregation on "Giving Thanks in Everything," from 1 Thess., 5-18. Mrs. Boal from Dromore rendered beautifully the solo "My Task," while an augmented choir, under our efficient organist, Mrs. Simpson, led the praise.

In the afternoon the historic Church was crowded, the preacher being Rev. Alfred Davison from Dromore, who gave us an intellectual treat, based on Matt 9, 37, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Miss L. V. Gordon, L.R.A.M., Belfast, sang so perfectly "How lovely are Thy dwellings" and "Nearer, my God, to Thee" that everyone sat enthralled and spellbound. The music was perfectly led by Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., of Belfast. The special collectors from the other churches were Dr. Adams and Messrs. John Erskine, Joseph M'Manus, F. T. Smith, and James Baird. The thank offerings were even larger than last year, and everyone was delighted with the services. The Church was very tastefully decorated by the young people of the congregation.

Raloo.

The Raloo Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church held their Harvest Services on Sunday, the 28th October, at 12 noon and 7 p.m.

The members of the Church and the Sunday School boys and girls came on Saturday morning bringing fruits and flowers, and set to work in decorating the Church interior until they made it look both ancient and beautiful by their energy and skill, which was declared by some to be the best decorations they had ever seen in the Church.

The preacher at the morning service was Rev. P. M. Lee, of Glenarm, whose service was much appreciated. His address was very appropriate for the occasion, and his prayer on thanksgiving expressed the feelings of those present. The service was inspiring and hopeful.

The preacher at the evening service was the Rev. J. M'Cleery, of Newry, who preached to a crowded audience, and many in the vestibule stood during the whole service. The preacher commanded the attention of all, and there was perfect silence during the whole service. The address was illuminating and helpful and inspiring.

The solos were sung by Miss Sadie Hall, and the choir was under the leadership of Mrs. M'Cleery, augmented by friends from Larne, and the harvest music was elevating and lifting.

The Minister and Committee of the Church desire to thank all the friends for their gifts of fruits and flowers and vegetables, and for those who put up the decorations and the many sympathisers from far and near who attended the services, and specially those friends from Warrenpoint, London and Oxford.

Ballyhemlin.—On Armistice Sunday a special collection was taken on behalf of the British Legion. The amount was one pound, seven and sixpence. The Minister took the service, the text being: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Reference was made to the war cemetery that stands at the northern end of the Mount of Olives. H. V. Morton describes the scene: "The cross in the cemetery is faced by the walls, the roofs and the domes of the city, and rises over the graves as the banner of St. George might have stood above a company of Crusaders. All other war cemeteries face the east—this one alone faces west. The Garden of Gethsemane is only a little way from it in the hollow, and from the cemetery you can see the site of Calvary. Among the flowers growing there are also wild red Flanders poppies. And on this Armistice Day in that cemetery, near Christianity's most sacred spot, Gethsemane and Calvary, a service would be held. But how many of such cemeteries, and how many of much larger ones lie scattered where the war was, and how many soldiers and sailors, and those who were simply passengers in cross-Channel steamers and liners had only a watery grave; This remembrance should strengthen the will to peace, and by every possibility war should be avoided.

Newry.—There was a large congregation on Sunday, 16th September, following the ordination of the new minister. A Memorial Service was held for

previous ministers, which had special reference to the late Rev. G. J. Slipper. The following Sunday found over thirty of the congregation at Doctor Agnew's Anniversary Service in the Ulster Hall, Belfast. Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held next Sunday, 30th September, and on Monday, 1st October. The Church was tastefully decorated. Electric light was installed in the Schoolroom, which was also decorated. There was an augmented choir, and special music under the able direction of Mrs. Slipper. Miss Adelaide Beattie, B.B.C. artiste, gave an exquisite rendering of the solo "Beside Still Waters." The guest-preacher was Dr. Agnew, of York Street. A special feature was the Social Hour after the service each evening. Tea was provided for visitors and friends.

During the month of October a Church Guild was organised. It reports excellent Wednesday evening Socials, a most interesting talk by Mr. Thomas Carnduff, the shipyard poet and dramatist, and an unforgettable Hallowe'en Party. There are now over fifty members. Following on Mr. Carnduff's talk, a Play-Reading Group and a Dramatic Society have been inaugurated. Three plays are now in hand for production during the winter session.

On Communion Sunday, 4th November, Rev. Joseph N. Barth, B.A., of Chicago, took part in the service, and preached a very acceptable sermon. The record number of fifty-four came forward to the Tables. We were highly honoured by the presence of this brilliant young man and his wife. He just recently represented the Youth Movements of America at the Leyden International Bureau . . the central organization which co-ordinates the work of Youth Movements throughout the World in the direction of Peace, Goodwill and Active Friendship. Mrs Barth was one of the official delegates of the American Unitarian Young Peoples' Religious Union to the Congress of Religious Liberals held in Copenhagen during August. She preached at the evening service on November 4th, being a fully accredited Minister, and was highly spoken of by all her large audience. The Social Hour afterwards concluded a memorable day. Special sermons were preached by the minister on Armistice Day, a large collection for the Haig Fund was thankfully received and there were good congregations.

The Guild held a very successful debate on Wednesday, Nov.7th. The motion "That bachelor blessedness is preferable to married bliss" was lost by 28 votes to 26. The Dramatic Society continue rehearsals. A Pantomime is under consideration. Voluntary workers are making alterations and carrying out repairs in the Schoolroom. Visitors are specially welcome to join us at the 7 o'clock evening service and are requested to remain for the Social Hour.

Warrenpoint—Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., was appointed Minister-in-charge of this congrgation at a meeting of Bangor Presbytery held in Newry on September 12. Since his taking over services have been conducted in the Church every Sunday at 3-30; with two exceptions, one the occasion of the Warrenpoint Presbyterian Church Centenary, the other a United Service in which Mr. McCleery took part.

A Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday, 14th October, when the Church was filled to its utmost capacity. The beautiful decorations, the hearty singing of harvest hymns, a solo by Mrs. Bennett of Warrenpoint, the able accompaniment by Mrs. Mitchell, the organist, and a fine afternoon, all combined to make the affair a great success. Friends were present from Newry, Banbridge and Dromore . . and if at any time, readers of this report should find themselves in Warrenpoint on Sunday afternoon, will they please help to swell our numbers and bring encouragement to those attending service in this beautiful old historic Church?

Comber Harvest Festival.—This annual festival was held on Sunday and Monday, November 21st and 22nd, and all the services were well attended. The attendance at the Monday evening service being the best yet recorded.

The Rev. S. Whitehouse, B.A., gave a most thought-provoking sermon on the Sunday morning, which was greatly appreciated. In the evening the minister of the church, the Rev. J. Glynne Davies preached forcefully and elo-

quently to a crowded congregation. The Rev. Nicol Cross, M.A., officiated on the Monday evening, and preached an appropriate harvest sermon from a new view point.

Features of the service were the most beautiful decorations in the church and the good singing of the choir in the anthem, and the beautiful solos of Mrs. J. K. Murphy. We would thank most heartily all those who helped to make such a joyful and helpful festival.

Comber. — The Unity Players gave two performances of three plays on November 6th and 8th to crowded audiences.

The company, numbering sixteen, have improved steadily, and all the players now show stage sense, bearing themselves naturally, and with confidence.

A two-act comedy, "The Buccaneer," was played excellently by Miss Sadie Stewart, Miss Rosemary Ferguson, Messrs. Hubert Smiley, Richard Dugan, and Glynne Davies.

"The Rebellion of Pamela," a three-act comedy, also was played in a splendid manner. The long part of "Pamela" was acted by Miss Helen Ferguson with great versatility. The other parts, all important to the success of the piece, were of a high standard, and were acted by Miss Ella M'Quaide, Miss Rosemary Ferguson, Miss Florence Ferguson, Messrs. Ivan Davies, John Young, Robert Greer, Robert Smiley, Glyn Davies. "The Third Shot," a tragedy, was the first attempted by the Players. The parts were for all male characters. The piece is a study in psychology, and lies in the finding of the murderer of Sir John Doure, when suspicion lay on the poacher, Bob Dillon

Each part was exceptionally well done—the right atmosphere was created and the audience on Thursday night responded so wonderfully that not a sound was heard when the real murderer convicted himself when "The Third Shot" was fired. John Young, as "The Traveller," acted splendidly, and was well supported by Glyn Davies as the poacher—the one who was suspected of the crime, Matthew Wilson, and Robert Smiley as the leaders of the villagers, made the right atmosphere of excitement and wonder. Ivan Davies, as the terrified "Henry Stoker," was good. Andrew Lamont, as Mr. Surties, the bailiff, who fired the shots, was heard to great advantage. Hubert Smiley acted with ease the part of the landlord of the inn. Robert Greer and Hugh Drain, new-comers to the Players, also gave a good account of themselves. All the plays are published by Abel Heywood, Manchester, and there are no fees attached to the performances. The plays were produced by Mrs. Glyn Davies, and the Rev. J. G. Davies acted as chairman each night. The Players are indebted to Mr. Jim Henry, who kindly fixed a radio-gramophone on the Thursday night. The music added greatly to the pleasure of the audience. Mr. Dempster had lent his gramophone on the Tuesday night.

Comber Women's League. — The Branch held the first of its monthly meetings on Monday, November 12th. Mrs. Glyn Davies, the President was in the chair. There was a good attendance of members, and tea was kindly provided by Mrs. David Munn. Miss Edith Hind, who was to have been the speaker, was, unfortunately, prevented from attending. Mrs. Glyn Davies gave a talk on "The Saving Grace of Humour."

The next meeting will be on December 3rd, when Miss Hind will be the speaker.

The Quarterly Meeting of the District League will be held in Comber on January 15th, at 3 p.m. As there will be a special service of dedication of gifts and a memorial to the memory of those members of the League who have passed beyond the veil, it is hoped that members of all branches will make a note of the date and make a special effort to attend. Non-members of the League are welcomed at all the meetings. Tea is served at the quarterly meetings at a cost of sixpence.

Trains leave the County Down Railway Station for Comber at 1.50 p.m. and 2.12 p.m. The fare is 1/- return.

The Comber Branch annual party will be held on January 7th at 8 p.m.

York Street. — We have had record congregations during the past month, and the overcrowding problem which we thought had been solved by the addition of the gallery a few years ago, has been with us again. It has now been

faced in another way.

It has long been Dr. Agnew's idea that the service could be relayed to the hall, but the expense of the necessary apparatus and the need to employ a trained operator has till now made it impossible. However, after experimenting for many weeks, one of our members, Mr. Christie, has succeeded in building an apparatus which works perfectly. The entire service is faithfully reproduced in the Lecture Hall, and our members who have given up their seats to visitors are able to take part in it. There is no difference whatever between the Services, except that in the Hall the preacher cannot be seen. On Harvest Sunday the experiment was tried for the first time. Over one hundred people who would otherwise have had to go away enjoyed the service, and had we had seats we might have had more. The same was the case on Armistice Sunday.

Once more the attendance at Communion was larger than before in spite of the fact that quite a number of our people were cut off by the crowds in the centre of the city, while others were engaged with the Remembrance Services elsewhere. There was not room for all who wished to partake, and visitors in the Gallery expressed their delight at the simple dignity of the Service.

Four Harvest Services were held, Mr. Eakin and Mr. M'Cleery, of Newry, being the special preachers. Belfast Male Voice Choir sang in the afternoon, when the Church was full.

We were delighted to have with us Rev. Joseph Barth, of Chicago, and his wife, also a qualified minister. Mrs. Barth was with us at our Hallowe'en Social, and was given a true Irish welcome. She preached in Newry on the following Sunday, while her husband, who had attended a similar social in Newry, came to York Street and took the Evening Service. Mrs. Barth arrived with Mr. M'Cleery at ten thirty. About a hundred of our young people remained behind to welcome her, and the Sabbath was over when all joined hands to sing Auld Lang Syne. Mr. and Mrs. Barth said that in their last few days in Europe they had been given a grand impression of the enthusiasm and of the young people of our Irish Churches, which they would never fail to speak of in the United States.

The Sunday Fellowship now held at four o'clock is becoming better known. As a rule, the Hall is well filled, and we have secured excellent speakers. Tea is provided for some of our members who would not be able to return home and attend the evening service, also for the officials of the Church who, with the Sunday School at three o'clock and the special meetings of Committee after morning service, find themselves in the Church almost the entire day, till ten thirty at night.

Week night activities are in full swing. The Swimming Club and Guild are having a most successful season. The Social Club has added a small French Circle to its attractions. The Dramatic Society is in abeyance, as we fear that it places a strain on Dr. Agnew, who is still supposed to be resting. There has been a suggestion that an unofficial Feis might be held in York Street for any Dramatic Societies in our Denomination who would care to help. The Hall would be freely at their disposal, with the small but complete stage and scenery, while our own Society would entertain the visitors. It would certainly draw many of the young people of our Churches together in a most enjoyable manner, which in itself would be good. We should be glad to hear from any interested, and would have no difficulty in providing an audience for three nights.

Members of other Churches will be interested in our endeavour to avoid a Bazaar, which we regard as uneconomic, and often a source of trouble out of all proportion to returns. Moreover, we feel that a Church such as ours should not need to call on outsiders. A full list of members is posted in the entrance hall. Every member considers what he or she can spare as a direct donation to the Church, and on promising that sum a "star of honour" is placed against the name. Members are asked to consider what is being done by others in the way of attendance and work, and in so far as they have not been able to come up to the level of others, to make this up as far as possible, so that all may share our burden equally. Within a few hours a hundred names had been "starred."

The scheme has been much approved in other Churches, and some of our visitors have been so pleased that they have asked to have their names placed on the list.

Our Church has never been in so satisfactory a condition. It was recently estimated that the total attendances made at Services, Fellowship, Guild, and the various Clubs in one week was over one thousand. Our Sunday School, unfortunately, is a weak spot, and must remain so owing to the distances at which their parents live. The financial problem is practically solved, but it can only remain so by these continuous efforts. While this is good in many ways, it imposes a continuous strain on our Minister and causes us anxiety, but loyal members are helping, and Mr. Kirkham's services as lay assistant are being retained.

Clough.—The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, 28th October. The Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., Belfast, was the preacher at both Services, and his addresses were much appreciated. The attendance, both morning and evening, were very good. Miss Meta Rainey, Belfast, who has sung for us at a number of Harvest Services, was the soloist both morning and evening, and she was as much enjoyed as ever. The scholars of the Sunday School also sang a hymn very nicely, and their part in the service was a welcome addition. On Monday evening Mrs. Ewbank, from Mountpottinger, was the visiting preacher, and her thoughtful and inspiring address was greatly appreciated by an extremely good attendance for a week evening. Mrs. Smith, Belfast, was the soloist for the second time, and her solos were much enjoyed. The ladies of the congregation tastefully decorated the Church with harvest offerings, and the simplicity and taste of the decorations was very effective and much appreciated.

Crumlin.—Our Communion, held on November 4th, was the best attended for three years, and was the more notable on account of the reception of six new commuicants. The Minister held preparation classes through the whole of October, which were attended very well by—The Misses Alice Thompson, D. I. and C. Manderson, Jack Manderson, John and Francis Gibb. These young men and women were then cordially welcomed by the Minister at their first Communion on behalf of the congregation. The Church was closed on November 11th in order that the congregation might take part in both the Two Minutes' Silence at the local war memorial and afterwards the United Remembrance Service at the local Presbyterian Church. The results in attendance and good feeling were well worth the effort.

TEMPERANCE CONFERENCE.

The Temperance Committee has arranged a Conference on Temperance to be held in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast, on Thursday evening, November 29th, at 8 p.m.

The Moderator will preside, and addresses will be delivered by the Revs. William Eakin, A. L. Agnew, D.D., and John M'Cleery, B.A., S.T.M.

An open discussion will follow, and at the end of the discussion tea will be provided.

All members of our congregations are earnestly invited, and outside friends will receive hearty welcome.

J. JOSEPH MAGILL,
Convener.

— The Unitarian and — Free Christian Laymen's League.

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